

R 404 (67)

A Seasonable
DISCOURSE
SHEWING
The *Necessity* of Maintaining
THE
Established Religion,
In opposition to
POPERY.

The Third Edition Corrected.



L O N D O N :

Printed for *Henry Brome*, at the Gun in S. Paul's
Church-Yard, MDC LXXIII.

William Lloyd Bishop of Worcester

DISCOURSE

The Young Man's

THE

Established Religion

In relation to

POPE

The Church Edition corrected.



Printed for Henry Baskin, at the Gun in St. Paul's
Church-Yard. MDCCLXXIII.

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A Seasonable
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The NECESSITY of Maintaining
THE
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P O P E R Y.



IT is not to be doubted, but that the Papists (against whom the Penal Laws were most sharp) are and will be watchful to improve to their utmost advantage, His Majesties Declaration of Indulgence; wherein he grants Liberty to all sorts of Dissenters from the Church of *England*, to exercise their Religions, and suspends the Execution of the Penal Laws in force against them. They will now so much the more industriously set themselves to seduce Protestants, since they may securely own and defend their Perswasions, and even their Priests openly act in all parts their Function, which was before no less than Capital in any of His Majesties Subjects. If the industry we expect from them meet not with a proportionable

The Established Religion

zeal in all true Protestants, it will not be hard to conjecture what the Success will be, when the Attacque is vigorous and industrious, and the Defence faint and negligent. And therefore I think it cannot be unreasonable to offer a few Motives to the stirring up the zeal, and awakening the prudence of all such Protestants as fear God, and love the King, the Church, or themselves, as well as to arm them with some Arguments for their own confirmation in the grounds of Protestancy, in opposition to Popery.

II. The first Consideration shall be that of Duty to Almighty God, who has made us Members of a Christian Church, in which we may assuredly find Salvation if we continue in it, and live according to its Rules and Precepts. This Christian Church our Holy Mother has no other Rule of Faith and Practice than the Holy (a) Scripture, of which, when less was written than we have now in our hands, *S. Paul* (b) said then, they were able to make man wise unto salvation. It receives for Canonical Scripture neither less nor more than those Books (c) of whose authority there was never any doubt in the Church, yielding herein as much to Universal Tradition as any Church in the world: much more than the Roman does, who obtrudes her particular Dictates and most notorious Innovations for the Fundamentals of the Catholic Faith. It professes the same Faith and no more than what all Christians have made the Badge and Symbol of their Profession, namely that which is briefly comprisd in the (d) Apostles Creed, explain'd in those others.

a Art. 6.

b 1 Tim. 3. 15.

c Artic. 13.

confins Schol. Di. c.

d Art. 8.

in opposition to Popery

thers: which antecalled the Nicene and Athanasian, and proved by the Holy Scriptures, taken in that sense which is evident in the Text to any indifferent judgment, and approved by the consent of the (e) Universal Church, the Decrees of the first General Councils and Writings of the Fathers.

We are Members of a Church where are used the same (f) Sacraments which Christ expressly left in his Church, and no other. We worship the only (g) God, as we are taught to believe in him, and no other. Our Administration of this Worship and of these Sacraments is in a (h) Language understood by all those that are concerned in them; being performed with such (i) Rites as are agreeable to the Word of God, being for Decency and Order; and we use them not as necessary in themselves, but in obedience to that Authority which God has given to every particular Church over its own Members. (k) Our Discipline likewise is according to the Scripture Rule, and Primitive Patterns; as far as the looseness of this Age will bear; and if this has weakened the Discipline of our Church, we believe it has the same effect even in those of the Roman Communion, and had no less in the Church of Corinth in the Apostles times.

And for the (l) Persons who are employed in the Ministry of Gods Worship and Sacraments, and in the feeding and governing of the Flock of Christ, they are lawfully called to their Office and Ministry, and are consecrated and ordained according to the Scriptures, and Canons of the

Uni-

e Jewels Appl.

f Art. 25.
Chatechism to the Lit.

g Art. 1.

h 1 Cor. 14. 6,

7, 8.

i 1 Cor. 14. 40.

Preface of Cere-

rem. to the

Litur.

k Art. 33.

Commun. in

the Litur.

l Book of Or-

dain.

11. 26.

Musn de mis.

Ang Bramhal.

The Established Religion

Universal Church: and we shew the Succession of our Bishops to the Apostles of Christ, as fully as it can be shewn in any other Church at this day.

m Art. 37.
King Charles
Letter to the
Prince.

Lastly, We are members of a Church, which above all other Constitutions in the Christian World enforces the great duties of (m) obedience and submission to the Magistrate, and teaches to be subject not only for *Wrath*, but *Conscience* sake.

In all these respects our Church holds a Communion with all true Churches of Christ that are or have been in the World, and is together with them a true Member of that holy Catholic Apostolic Church which was from the beginning, and will be to the end.

n Bulla Cens.

As we pass not severe censures on other Churches, though exceedingly erroneous, and are for that charity unworthily repaid by the most criminal, that of *Rome*: So are we excommunicated by none that we know of, but Her, The Pope herein dealing with us as he does with all other Christians in the (n) World, namely, with most of the European Churches, and all in other parts, except those few whom he has gained of late by his Missionaries.

o Jude 3.
Gal. 5. 1.

The common Cause for which we suffer is nothing else but the defence of the (o) Faith which was once delivered to the Saints, and of that Liberty wherewith Christ has made us free; against those additional Articles which he would intrude into the one, and that Anti-christian Yoke which he would impose on the other.

The difference between our case and that of our fellow

(637)
5

In opposition to Popery.

fellow Christians who suffer with us is only this; that they are shut out from Heaven as far as the Popes Censures can do it; for they know not what, many of them, even Millions in the remoter parts, having never so much as heard of him, or his pretensions; whereas we know them too well by woful Experience.

It is not much more than an hundred years since that our Ancestors were under his Tyranny, which as their Fathers had insensibly drawn upon themselves, by their deference to the See of *Rome*, from whence the *Saxons* had partly (p) their Conversion; so they having endured it as long as they were able, after many fruitless endeavours to make it tolerable, at last with one (q) consent threw the Yoke off their necks.

Our Church being thus freed from the Usurpations of *Rome* by them who were deeply (r) immersed in the errors and corruptions of it, the best use they could make of their liberty was this; to restore the primitive purity of the Christian Faith and Worship, which ignorance and interest had fatally depraved. Indeed, 'twas morally impossible that they should pass untainted through so many Ages of darkness, when the Popes given up to profligate (s) vice seem'd to drive on no other design but for Wealth and Dominion, when scarce any in their Communion understood the Originals of Scripture: when those that governed were so jealous of it, that they would not suffer any (t) Translation, but the Latins which was overgrown the mean while (as they now confess) with many thousands of Corruptions.

p Ethelbert and some others of the South of England.
q An. 23. of Hen. 8. by the advice of the Parliament and Convocation.
r Herb. Hist. of Hen. 8. Speed. Bak. &c.

(Guiccard. l. 16.
Luitprand. l. 2. c. 12.
Baron. 44.
An. 908.
Concil. Const. Sess. 11.
Genebr. 1.
an 901.
t Sixt. P. 6.
Elem. 8. in the Prefaces of their Book.

III. Ha-

The Established Religion

II. Having considered the Obligation we have to the Religion we profess, it may be reasonable next to reflect on the Religion to which we are invited, and to break down all those prejudices, which

We are invited to one that recalls us to the Idolatrous practice of the heathen World, to

pray unto our fellow Creatures canonized, to Saints and Heroes, to worship Images, and fall

down to the stock of a tree. Nay to the worshiping of the consecrated host, which by the confession of (x) Cossen, the Jesuite, and some others,

is a more stupid Idolatry than the worst of the Heathens were ever guilty of, in case Transubstantiation cannot be made out. Now that Transubstantiation is not real, we have all the evidence that

we are capable of, the testimony of our reason and our senses. The absurd and monstrous consequences of that Doctrine will fill Volumes, a great

part of which are with great truth and justice drawn together by Dr. Brevint in his late Treatise entitled, The depth and mystery of the Roman Mass.

We are invited to a Religion that takes from us contrary to the express words of our Saviours Institution (y) half of the Sacrament of the

Eucharist. To a Church that revives the Heathen Persecution of taking away our (z) Bibles, and

would involve every Lay-man in the guilt of being a * Traditor, the next step in the account of the Primitive Church to Apostacy from the

Christian Faith. We are invited to a Church, that as it takes away one of the Scriptures and half the

Com.

u Concil Tri-
dent. Sess. 25.
Bell. de Imag.
l. 2.

x Cossier, En-
chirid. Con-
servat. x. 808.
y Euch. p. 308.
z Concil Tri-
dent. Sess. 17.
Bell. de Euch.

by Concil. Con-
stance Sess. 13.
Triid. Sess. 21.
Bell. de Euch.
l. 4.
z Index lib.
prohib. reg. 4.
Bell. de ver. o.
l. 1. l. 2.
* Optat. mite-
viam. l. 1.
Cont. P. 4. men.

III

(699)
7

in opposition to Popery.

Communion, robs likewise of the benefit of the Publick Prayers, putting the Offices in an unknown † Tongue; insomuch that when about thirteen years ago some of the Prelates of the Church of France had taken care to translate the Liturgy and Scripture into the vulgar Tongue, Pope (a) Alexander the seventh damns the Attempt, and under pain of Excommunication commands all persons to bring in their Books to be publicly burnt. We are tempted to a Religion, which contrary to the command of trying all things, and holding fast that which is good, and paying to God a reasonable service, enjoyns an (b) implicate Faith and blind Obedience: to a Religion that instead of the guidance of the Word of God, sets up an (c) infallible Judge and Arbitrator of all Doctrines, the Pope of Rome: Which instead of the faith once delivered to the Saints adds (d) new Articles of Faith, which instead of that one propitiation made by Christ, and the condition thereof Faith and Repentance, sets remission of sins upon terms, and proposes that gift of God to be bought with Money in the vile Market of (e) Indulgences; for instance (f) Sacrilege is valued at seven grosses, Incest five, Simony seven, Perjury six, Murder five, and so on in the Tax of the Apostolic Chancery.

We are invited to a Church where we must be Schismatics that we may be Catholics, and adhere to the (g) Roman in opposition to all other; that is to the Catholic Church.

Twere endless by retail to reckon up the Errors and the Guilts to which we are invited.

† Missal. rom.
Approbat. ex
decret. Concil.
T. ident. &
bullâ Pii 5.
Cherubini bul-
lar. Tom. 2.

p. 311.
a Extrait du
proces verbal
des assemble
general du
clerge du Fran.
tenue à Paris le
An. 1660. &
1641.

b Bell. de Rom.
pont. l. 4.

c Bellar. de
Ecclesi. l. 3.

d Jud. 3.

e Bellar. de
Indulg. l. 1.
f Taxa cancel.
Apost.

g Bellar. de
Ecclesi. l. 3.

The Established Religion

h Church Hist.
of Britany.

the fond ridiculous Rites, the superstitious, burthenſom and heatheniſh Ceremonies, the Exorcisms and Conjurations, the Blaſphemies and forged Miracles, Cheats and pious Frauds, the Lies and Stories ſtupid and impoſſible as *Amadis de Gaul*, the *Knight of the Sun*, or the *Seven Champions*; witneſs the *Golden Legend*, the *Lives of the Saints*, of *S. Francis*, *Brano*, *S. Dominic* and infinite others; or if we have a mind to a Romance of our own, the long Tale of a Tub which (b) Father *Serenus Cressy* has lately put out borrowed from Father *Alford*; the improbable, that is, the greater Miracles, as he tells us, being omitted becauſe of the unbelief of the *Héreticks*, and yet enow are left to weary the credulity of the moſt ſanguine Catholics. Wherein alſo, as he tells us, we may ſee the Faith of our Forefathers, and truly we have great reaſon to thank him for the proſpect, which gives us ſtrong inducements in ſo unequal a competition, to retain our own.

Notwithſtanding all that has been ſaid, there are a ſort of pacific Writers, who repreſent the Doctrines of the Church of *Rome* under a fairer light, and would have us believe they have a better meaning than is uſually ſuggeſted. And God forbid that we ſhould take things by the worſt handle, or make that breach wider, whoſe cloſure we ſhould endeavour to make up with a zeal equal to that of the gallant (i) *Roman*, who threw himſelf on behalf of his Country into the gaping Gulf. Indeed no price can be too great for Peace, but only Truth; the which we may
not

i *Curtius*.

(681)
9
in opposition to Popery.

not part with for all the tempting charms of Charity and Love: and God knows, in the present case 'tis evident, that the excuses which are fram'd in the Romanists behalf are short and frivolous; nor besides can any man be esteem'd a Roman Catholic by admitting the Doctrines of that Church in his own private or some more probable Doctors, but in the public sense. And had these undertakers in the Catholic Cause power to dispense therein according to that Candor which many of them make shew of, we might attend to what is said; but we are well assur'd, that all these fair words can signifie nothing but are merely a bait and snare laid to draw in the easie Profelyte: for when he's reconcil'd and brought into the bosom of the Church, these painted shews are presently washt off; and all concessions immediately retracted; the Convert must then learn the Colliers Creed, believe as the Church believes, and St. Peter's Key which threw the gate open to admit into the Church, will shut the Prisoner in: and the Child which had a piece of money given him to keep him quiet, shall soon after have it call'd for back again, and be aw'd with the rod, if he repine or murmur. So that 'twill be a frivolous Project to talk of a reconcilement with the Church of *Rome*, till she first conform herself to Truth; and a Conviction, and much more a Reformation must here be impossible, where the grossest Errors are joyn'd with an Assurance of being free from any; nay, a Persuasion of being infallible.

The Established Religion

IV. The Motive which deserves the next place is the *Safety of the King's Person*, and the Prerogative of the Crown, which hath no higher or more necessary appendent than his Supremacy in his Dominions in all Causes Ecclesiastical and Secular, according to the powers invested in the (k) *Jewish Kings* under the Law, and exercised by the first (l) *Christian Emperours*.

'Tis obviously known how destructive both to itself and the Community is the Partnership of Regal Power; but this must be infinitely mischievous when shared by a Foreigner, whose interests are necessarily contrary to those of our Prince and Nation, as the Popes certainly are. But this mischief stays not within the aforesaid bounds; for the Pope is not content with a bare Co-ordination; but demands the Preference for his spiritual Sword, and claims a power to depose Kings and dispose of Kingdoms.

This we learn at large from (m) *Bellarmin*, *Suarez*, *Turrecremata*, *Card. Perron*, *Thom. Aquin.* *Ledesma*, *Malderius*, to pass by innumerable others, all whose Works were publisht by Authority, and so own'd as consonant to the Doctrines of the Church, to which may be added the Pope's Definition, who makes it authentic Law in these words *we say and define and pronounce that it is absolutely necessary to salvation for every human Creature to be subject to the Bishop of Rome*, and this Law of Pope (n) *Boniface* the Eighth's making, he effectually commented on himself, of whom (o) *Platina* says, *That he made it his business to give and take away Kingdoms, to expel men and restore*

k David Hezek. &c.
l Const. Theod. Justin &c.

m Bell. de rom. pont. l. 5.
duar And. & u.
Foban. resp ad
Casub. p. 12.
Suaz. defens.
fil. cath. l. 3.
Turrecrem
sun eccl. c. 14.
Thom. Aquin.
2. 2. quest. 12.
Art. 2.
Ledes. Theol.
mor. tract. 7.
Malder. com. in
D. Thom. 2. 2.
quest. 1.
n Extravag de
majoritate &
obedientia c. 1.
unan sanctam.
o Platin in
vit. Innoc. 3.

(62)

In opposition to Popery.

11

restore them at his pleasure. All which, that it might want no Sanction or Authority to render it the Doctrine of the Church, is justified in the third and fourth (p) *Lateran Council*, the Council of *Lions*, the Council of *Constance*, all which call themselves General, and therefore speak the Doctrine of the Church.

p *Concil. Later.*
can. 27. 10m.
concil. 17.

p. 461. *Concil.*
lat. 4. Can. 3.
Tom. 28. p. 161.

Concil. Lugd. 1.
Sess. 3. Tom. 28
p. 424. *Concil.*
Const. Sess. 17.
tom. 29 p. 58.
and 46.

What has been done in this kind since the days of *Gregory* the Seventh throughout *Europe* would fill a large Volume, in the bare Narration, whoever has a mind to see those black Annals need not consult Protestant Writers, but read *Baronius* or *Platina*, and there he will satisfy himself. Behold at large the last and greater Triumphs of the Capitol: Crowns and Scepters and the necks of Emperors and Kings trampled upon in great Self-denial by *Christ's* humble Vicar, their Realms and Countries taken from them and involv'd in blood by the Lieutenant of the Prince of Peace: Subjects discharg'd from their Allegiance in the right of him, who himself disown'd the being a divider and a Judge; and in a word, the whole world made his Kingdom, who pretends his interest deriv'd from our Lord *Jesus*, who disclaim'd the having a kingdom of this World. So that it was not said amiss by *Passavantius*, That the Devil made tender of all the Kingdoms of the World and the glory of them to our Lord *Christ*, but he refused them; afterwards he made the same offer to his Vicar the Pope, and he presently accepted it, with the Condition annexed of falling down and worshipping. The English Reader who desires to be satisfied in matter of Fact

may

The Established Religion

q History of
Popish Treasons
and Usurpa-
tions.

may please to consult the (q) History of *Popish Treasons and Usurpations* not long since written by Mr. Foulis, to pass by others who have also dealt in that Subject.

At present I shall only add that although our neighbouring Princes have difficulty enough given them by this Universal Monarch, who like his Predecessors in Heathen Rome, makes it a piece of his Prerogative to have Kings his Vassals, yet they often help themselves by some Advantages which our Sovereign is not allowed. The most Christian King has his Capitularies, Pragmatic Sanctions, Concordats, and the Privileges of the Gallican Church to plead upon occasion. And his Catholic Majesty as the eldest Son of the Church has several Rights of Primogeniture, especially in the Kingdom of Sicily. But the Crown of England is not to be treated with such respect: it alas ever since the days of Henry the Second or at least King John is held in fee of the Pope, and we are in hazard to be called unto account for the Arrear of 1000 Marks *per Annum* payable ever since that time: And Cardinal (r) Allen has given it for good Canon Law, That without the approbation of the See Apostolic none can be lawful King or Queen of England by reason of the ancient Accord made between Alexander the Third in the year 1171. and Henry the Second then King, when he was absolv'd for the death of S. Thomas of Canterbury: That no man might lawfully take that Crown, nor be accounted as King, till he were confirmed by the Sovereign Pastor of our souls which for the time should be; This accord being afterwards renewed about the year 1210 by King John, who

r Admonish.
to the Nobility.

who confirmed the same by oath to Pandolphus the Popes Legate at the special request and procurement of the Lords and Commons as a thing most necessary for the preservation of the Realm from the unjust usurpation of Tyrants, and avoiding other inconveniences which they had proved, &c. But if this be but the single Opinion of a probable Doctor, we may have the same asserted by an infallible one, Pope (f) Innocent the Fourth, who before his College of Cardinals, and therefore in likelihood *à Cathedra*, declares, that the King of England was his Vassal, nay, to speak truth, his Slave. From hence it is that the succeeding Popes have been so free on all occasions of turning out of doors these their Tenants upon every Displeasure and little pet. Not to mention the old Mis-adventures of Richard the Second, King John, &c. Hence it was that (r) Paul the Third sent against King Henry the Eighth, in the year 1538. his terrible thundering Bull, as the Author of the History of the Council of Trent calls it, such as never was used by his Predecessors nor imitated by his Successors; in the Punishments to the King were deprivation of his Kingdom, and to his adherents of whatsoever they possessed, commanding his Subjects to deny him Obedience, and Strangers to have any Commerce in that Kingdom, and all to take Arms against, and to persecute both himself and his followers, granting them their Estates and Goods for their prey, and their Persons for their Slaves. Upon like terms (u) Paul the Fourth would not acknowledge Queen Elizabeth, because the Kingdom was a Fee of the Papacy, and it was audaciously done of her to assume it without his leave. And therefore (x) Pius the Fifth went on, and

fairly

[Mat. Paris
An. 1253.]

Cherubini
bullar. Tom. 1.
p. 704.
Hist. Conc.
Trent. l. 1 An.
1538.

u Hist. Conc. of
Trent. an 1548
x Cambd. Eliz.
An. 1570.
Cherubini bul-
lar. Tom. 2.
p. 303.

The Established Religion

fairly deposed her by his Bull, dated *Febr. 25. 1570.* but because the stubborn Woman would needs be Queen for all this, Pope (y) *Gregory the Thirteenth* deposes her again, and having two hopeful Bastards to provide for, to the one he gives the Kingdom of *England*, to the other that of *Ireland*: Nor was she unqueen'd enough by all this, but (z) *Sixtus Quintus* gives away her Dominions once more to the King of *Spain*: and after all when nothing of all this would thrive, * *Clement* the Eighth sends two Breves for sailing into *England*, one to the Laity, the other to the Clergy, commanding them not to admit any other but a Catholic, though never so near in blood, to the Succession; in plain terms, to exclude the Family of our Sovereign from the Crown. In the year 1626. † *Urban* the Eighth forbids his beloved Sons; the Catholics of *England*, the pernicious and unlawful Oath of Allegiance. Yet more, in the late unnatural Rebellion in *Ireland* the Loyal Catholics, as now they call themselves, submitted that unhappy Kingdom to his aforesaid Holiness Pope (a) *Urban*, to pass by other offers no less treasonable: and after that, as we are credibly informed, Pope *Innocent* the Tenth bestowed it as a Favour on his dear Sister, and much dearer Mistress *Donna Olympia*. And sure we have all the reason in the world to believe that every thing of this will be done again when the old Gentleman at *Rome* is pleased to be angry next, has a mind to gratifie a neighbour Prince, or wants a Portion for a Son, or a Favour for a Mistress. And as it is, the Papists of *England* have but this one excuse for that

y Thuan. l. 64.
Cambd. Eliz.
An. 1578.

z Cam'd. Eliz.
An. 1588.
* Cambd. Eliz.
An. 1607.

† Dat May 30.
16 6.
Fonlin p. 725.

a Lord Orrerys answer to
Peter Welsh
his Letter.

in opposition to popery.

684.
15

that mortal sin of obedience to their Heretic Prince,

(b) that they are not strong enough to carry a Rebellion: And truly 'twere great pity these men should be entrusted with more power, who give us so many warnings beforehand how they are bound to use it.

b Wascons
quodlibets,
p. 255. out of
Bannes, Valen-
tia, and others.

But to all this the Roman Catholics have one short reply, That they are the most Loyal Subjects of his Majesty: and have signally approved their duty by their service and fidelity in the last War. To this I say in short, that as bad as Popery is, I do not think it can eradicate in all its Votaries their natural conscience; no Plague was ever so fatal as to leave no Person uninfected, but alwayes some have scap't its fury. The case is fully stated by King (c) James of famous memory,

c King James
his works,
p. 504.

as on one part, many honest men, seduced with some Errors of Popery, may yet remain good and faithful Subjects; so on the other part, none of those that truly know and believe the whole grounds and School conclusions of their Doctrines, can ever prove either good Christians, or good Subjects. To speak the plain truth, and what the insolent boasts of Papists makes necessary to be told them, whatever was done then, was no trial at all of Loyalty. The late Rebels found it necessary for the countenancing their cause to make a loud pretence against Popery, and to have the benefit of spoiling them: So that the Roman Catholics did not so much give assistance to the King, as receive Protection from him. When they shall have adher'd to their Prince in spite of the commands of their holy Father the Pope, and defended their Sovereign and his Rights, when it was not their interest to do it, they will

C

have

The Established Religion

d Pag. 14.

have somewhat worth the boasting; As the case now stands, they had better hold their peace, and remember that the Sons of another Church served their King as faithfully as they, though they talk less of it. But since they will needs have the World know what good Subjects they have been, let them take this short account from the *Answer to the (d) Apology for the Papists*, Printed An. 1667. In Ireland there were whole Armies of Irish and English that fought against his Majesty solely upon the account of your Religion. In England it is true some came in voluntarily to assist him, but many more of you were hunted into his Garrisons by them that knew you would bring him little help, and much hatred. And of those that fought for him as long as his Fortune stood, when that once declined, a great part even of them fell from him. And from that time forward you that were always all deem'd Cavaliers where were you? In all those weak efforts of gasping Loyalty what did you? You complied, and flattered, and gave sugared words to the Rebels then, as you do to the Royallists now; You address'd your Petitions to the Supreme Authority of this Nation the Parliament of the Commonwealth of England. You affirmed that you had generally taken, and punctually kept the Engagement. You promised; that if you might but enjoy your Religion, you would be the most quiet and useful Subjects of England. You prov'd it in these words: The Papists of England would be bound by their own interest, the strongest Obligation amongst wise men, to live peaceably and thankfully in the private exercise of their Conscience, and becoming gainers by such compassions, they could not so reasonably be

be distrusted as the Prelatic Party which were losers. If this be not enough to evidence the singular loyalty of Papists in the late War, they may hear a great deal more of their vertue celebrated from their Petitions and public Writings in my (e) Lord Orrerys answer to Peter Welsh his Letter. And because in those Writings they are so ready ^{e Pag. 14, 15, &c.} to throw the first stone against the late Regicides, they would do well to clear themselves from the guilt of that Sacred bloud which is charged home upon them by the Answerer of (f) Philanax ^{f Pag. 59.} Anglicus, who has not yet been controuled for that accusation.

V. To this barbarous insolence of Excommunicating and Deposing Kings may succeed the usual consequent of that, but greater prodigy of Tyranny, the putting whole Nations under Interdict, and depriving them of all the Offices and comforts of Religion, and that generally without any other provocation, than that the Prince has insisted on his just rights, or the people performed their necessary duty. History is full of instances hereof. Within the compass of one Age, I mean the eleventh (g) Century, almost all the Nations of Europe fell under this Discipline, France, England, Scotland, Spain, and Germany; and some of them several times over; and so it has gone down in following Ages. The nature of the punishment we may learn from (h) Matthew Paris, who describing the Interdict ^{g Baron. cent. undecim.} in the days of King John, which lasted amongst us for six years, three months, and fourteen ^{h An. 1200.} days.

The Established Religion

days, *There ceased throughout England all Ecclesiastical Rites, Absolution and the Eucharist to persons in their last Agonies, the baptizing of Infants only excepted: also the bodies of the dead were drag'd out of Cities and Villages, and buried like the Carcasses of Dogs in the high-ways and ditches without any prayers or the Sacerdotal Ministry.* One would imagine that he who pretends to hold his Empire from the Charter of *pasce oves*, the feeding of Christs Sheep would find himself concerned not to destroy and starve them, or withhold from them their spiritual food for almost seven years together; an unusual prescript for abstinence in order unto health, But we may not wonder at all this; for *(i) pasce oves* with a Roman Comment means, all Coercion and Dominion; and they who take away the Scriptures and half the Communion from the Layty are not to be controul'd, if they also withhold the other offices of piety.

*i Platina in vi-
ra Greg. VII.*

VI. A farther consideration may be *the Laws of the Land*, which in case of Popery must be content to truckle under the Canon Law, and occasional Bulls of his Holiness, or Legantine Commissions, The proceedings of the Courts in *westminster* veiling to Prohibitions and Appeals to *Rome*, against which a *Premunire* will be a weak fence in bar to the plenitude of the Apostolic Power; and to murmur or dispute any thing will be especially to new Converts, interpreted Heresie, a word of so sharp an importance, as not to need a Comment. There is a Tradition that heretofore the Gentlemen of
the

(691)
19
in opposition to Popery.

the long Robe were in that mean estate as to ply at *Westminster* Hall Gate as now Watermen do at the Stairs for a Fare, let the Practitioners in that noble Profession consider whether some such thing would not in earnest be the consequent of Popery. And the rest of the People of *England* would do well to think whether they are fitted for a Journey to *Rome*, as often as they shall be called thither: I do not mean the divertisement of Travel, or devotion of Pilgrimage, but the compulsion of Citations from that Court, where the attendance and expence is not likely to be less than formerly it was, when it occasioned the groans and sad complaints of our Fore-fathers; which though they have escaped, our experimental knowledge sufficiently appear in all our *(k)* Histories. Or should the English Law have some quarter given it, and be allowed a little Chamber practise, this must be only in reference to the Layty. All *(l)* Ecclesiastics are under a more perfect dispensation, and only accountable to the Apostolic See either for their Actions or concerns; the benefits of which though the Secular Priests share in some proportion, the Regulars much more liberally enjoy, being owned by the Pope *(m)* as his Souldiers and Prætorian bands, listed under the Generals of their several Orders, maintained indeed at the cost of the Countries where they live, but for the service of their Sovereign abroad, to whom they owe an entire and blind obedience: And that they may give no Hostages to the State where they reside, are forbid to marry. So that if Popery

k Roger Hoved.
in Hen. II.
Mat. Paris ib.

l Concil. Trid.
Sess. 25.

m Hist. Concil.
Trident. l. 1.

The Established Religion

Popery should prevail, we must, besides all charges necessary to secure our selves from foreign enemies both by Land and Sea, constantly maintain a vast Army of possibly an hundred thousand men, for such were the old numbers, to assure our slavery to the Roman Yoke. Nor are these Priviledges of the Church only personal, the places themselves which these religious men possess are hallowed into Sanctuaries, and give protection unto any criminal that treads within their thresholds, the most horrid murder or barbarous villany is to have the benefit of the Clergy, and if the Malefactor have but time to step into a Cloyster, he fears no farther prosecution.

VII. But besides the inconvenience of submitting to a foreign Law, that certain mark of slavery, and the intolerable burthens that attend its execution, it will be of moment to advise how well our property and interest in our estates will stand secur'd; And though when Princes are upon their good behaviour, to be disseized of their dominions, whenever they offend his Holiness of *Rome*, the Peasant or the Gentleman have no great reason to expect indemnity: yet should the Farm or Manor-house be too low a mark for the Roman Thunderer to level at, 'tis not to be imagined the Lord Abbots and the Lands of all Religious houses will be past by as trifles. The Church is ever a Minor, and cannot be prescribed against by time, or barr'd in her claims, and our holy Father out of his Paternal care will find himself concern'd to vindicate the Orphan committed to his trust. Some
pe-

(693)
in opposition to Popery.

21

perchance who enjoy those Lands think they need not apprehend any thing, because they hold under Acts of Parliament: But they who imagine this should consider, that the same strength that can repeal those Laws that establish Protestantism, may also do as much for those which suppress Religious houses: and no body can tell what the force and swing of a violent turn, especially in *England*, may produce, where we seldom proceed with coldness or reserve. Acts of resumption are not things unheard of in ours, or in foreign stories. Nor is the consent of the Pope in *Queen (n) Mary's* dayes a better security; for in case of a change of Religion all those grants will be interpreted a bare permission, and that conditional in order to the great end of reclaiming an heretical Kingdom, which not being then accepted of, and finally submitted to, will not be thought obligatory when Papists by their own skill or interest have gotten the power into their hands. King *Charles* the First yielded at the Isle of (o) *Wight* that the Church Lands should be leased out for 99 years, in order to a present peace and settlement of all things, through the interposition of a powerful and violent faction it was not then accepted of: Does any man think the Obligation of leasing for 99 years remains now? Let our Lay-Abbots apply this to their case, and then judge whether they upon a revolution will be more secure of their Possessions than the late Purchasers were; or whether those Purchasers were not as confident of transmitting their Acquisitions to their posterity as any possessor of Church Lands now is or has been

n 1 and 2 of
Phillip & Mary.

o Treaty at the
Isle of Wight.

The Established Religion

been. The King of *France*, not long since has redeemed back to the Crown those demefnes which belong'd to it, paying back such summs as were really laid out by the Purchasers; and allowing the mean profits as interest for the money so laid out: Which method of procédure has been defended by very considerable Arguments to be just and equitable. If the money expended on the Church penniworths at the dissolution of Religious houses were now refunded, and the advantage of above 100 years profit already received were thrown into the bargain, though the present Proprietaries would have an ill exchange, yet there would be so much plausibleness in the grounds of it, as in the zeal and heat of a turn would not be easily controul'd: especially if it be farther prest, that the first claim from the Acts of Parliament suppressing Church Lands appear to be not full and peremptory, the Lands of the first suppression in the 27. year of *Henry 8.* not seeming to intend an alienation to common and secular uses, but to have been vested in the King in trust, that the revenues might be employed (p) *to the pleasure of Almighty God, and to the honour and profit of this Realm.* As to the second in 31 year of *Henry 8.* The Act supposes, and is built upon the alienations legally made by the respective Religious Houses and Corporations, who are said (q) *of their own voluntary minds, good wills and assents, without constraint, coercion, or compulsion of any manner of person or persons by the due order and course of the common Laws of this Realm of England, and by their sufficient writings of Record under their*

p Cap. 23.

q Cap. 13.

(695)

in opposition to Popery.

23

their Covenant and common Seals, &c. Now to the verifying of these particulars a great many doubtful circumstances and nice points of Law are easily drawn in as requisite, the suggesting whereof in the forementioned cases however slight and frivolous they may be, no body can tell what force they will have when dilated on by a Roman Catholic Advocate, and interpreted by an infallible Legislator. That all this is not an idle dream, suggested to make Popery odious, will be manifest to any one who will take pains to read what a French Marquess of that Religion has lately written on this very subject, who having represented us as a (r) *People without Friends, without Faith, without Religion, without probity, without any justice, mistrustful, inconstant to the utmost extremity, cruel, impatient, gormandizers, proud, audacious, covetous, fit only for handy-strokes and ready execution; but incapable of managing a war with discretion.* After this friendly character he proceeds to shew by what ways and methods we are to be destroyed, which are first to put us to the expences of a war, and by raising of forces create a jealousy between the King and his People. Then to amuse us with fears of invasion. Thirdly, To stir up the several Parties among us, and to favour one Sect against another, especially the Catholics, promising secretly to the Benedictines as from the King of England, which they will easily believe, that they shall be restored to all that they formerly possessed according to the Monasticon lately printed there: whereupon, sayes this worthy Author, the Monks will move heaven and earth, and the Catholics will declare themselves. It will not be material to transcribe the

*r Traite de la
politique de
France. c. 14.
p. 183.*

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whole

The Established Religion

whole design laid down for our destruction by this bold Writer, which with all other Machinations; the providence of God, and the prudence of his Sacred Majesty will we hope frustrate. This is enough to shew that there are persons in the world, who can yet nourish hopes of destroying the Nation, and repossessing the Lands of the Church, and in printed books make a publick profession of them.

But if one general Act of Resumption should not disseize at one stroke all the Lay-Possessors of Church-Lands, 'tis plain that in case of Popery, by retail they will be all drawn in, for what Papist in his last Agonies will obtain Absolution without satisfaction first made to Holy Church, for the Goods sacrilegiously detained? Or how will he escape the lying in Purgatory at least, and frying there for several thousands of years, who instead of having benefit from the Indulgences of the Church, is solemnly (*sic*) cursed and anathematized with the worst of Heretics in the *Bulla Genæ*, as also the Declaration of the Council of *Trent*, upon the score of being Robbers of the Church? 'Tis not to be hoped they should have any benefit from the Treasure of the Church, who have enriched themselves with that real and material Treasure belonging to her, which is the only price that buyes the other. Indeed, they who without the plea of a precedent right in few centuries gain'd to themselves a fifth part of the whole Kingdom, will not doubt in a much shorter time, having the fore-mentioned pretences to recover it again, even the *six hundred forty five Abbies*, where-

f Concil. Trid:
Sess. 22. bulla
genæ. in bulla-
rio Cherubin.
passim.

(634)

25

in opposition to Popery.

whereof twenty seven had their Abbots Peers of England: *The ninety Colleges, two thousand three hundred seventy four Chantries and free Chappels, and one hundred and ten Hospitals, (t) which (besides the lesser Dissolutions of Templars, Hospitalers, Friars Alien and others that preceded) fell together under the hands of King Henry VIII.*

t Herbert hist. of Hen. 8. Speed, &c.

VIII. It would be farther weigh'd in reference to the Wealth and flourishing of the Kingdom, and what is necessarily required thereto, *the Preservation of Trade*, and the value of Lands and Rents that the more Popery grows, the more will Idleness increase, the more Abbey-Lubbers, that is, persons exempted from contributing in any kind to the uses of a State either in War or Peace, and yet maintain'd as drones on others sweat and labours. The more it increases, the more will Celibate or single life prevail; the more Daughters will be sent to Nunneries abroad, till they can be fix'd at home, the more men will turn Priests and Friars, and so less people in the Nation which already has too few, And that the numbers in those Societies may be sure to be full, it is a known and customary practice to entice and spirit away Children from their Parents into their Covents, from whence they cannot be withdrawn without Sacrilege. Of this abuse complaint was made long ago in behalf of the English Nation, to the Pope by (u) Rich. Fitz-Ralph, called *Armachanus*, Anno 1360, though without redress. *Lay men*, says he, *refrain from sending their Sons to the Universities fearing to have*

u Sermon preached before the Pope and Cardinals at Avignon.

The Established Religion

*In defense for it.

them taken away from them, chusing rather to keep their Sons at home, and breed them to Husbandry, than to lose them by sending them to the Schools: In my time there were thirty thousand Students in Oxford, and now there are not six thousand, and the great cause of this decrease in numbers is the aforesaid circumventing of Youth. To this Accusation (x) *William Wadsworth*, a begging Frier, makes answer in his Apology for his Order, by undertaking to prove, That it is very lawful to entice Children into their Covents without their Parents consent. Since the Reformation, what Arts have been used to People the Seminaries abroad, is a thing too notorious to need an account, if any desire satisfaction therein, he may have it from *Mr. Wadsworths English Spanish Pilgrim*. By this engaging of the Youth in Monasteries and Nunneries there will be as many more idle hands, so by the more Holy-days which will be kept there will be the less work done; consequently what is done will be so much the dearer, an ill expedient for promoting of Trade, for four days work must perhaps maintain a man and his Family seven. The more Popery encreases, the less Flesh will be eaten, a third part of the year being one way or other Fasting days, besides particular Penances, as good an expedient for Rents, as the former was for Trade. To salve this, I expect the Papists should tell us, that great numbers of Forreiners of that Religion will come and live among us, and supply by their numbers the other inconveniences: but the English Artificers and Merchants are already sensible.

(629)
27

in opposition to Popery.

sensible of the mischiefs which those interloping Strangers which are here already do among us, and desire no new Colonies: Besides, 'tis obvious to any common understanding, that if the admission of Popery bring in Forreiners, the discouragement of Protestancy will in greater and more disadvantageous proportions drive out Natives: and though it be not certain who will gain by the change; 'tis manifest that the true English Interest will be a loser by it.

IX. But to proceed, *Popery will bring in to private persons a vast expence* in Masses, Diriges, Mortuaries, Penances, Commutations, Pilgrimages, Indulgences, Tenths, First Fruits, Appeals, Investitures, Palls, Peter-pence, Provisions, Exemptions, Collations, Devolutions, Revocations, Unions, Commendams, Tolerations, Pardons, Jubilees, &c. paid to Priests, the Pope and his Officers; which upon computation amounted to Three Millions *per Annum*, a great part thereof carried out of the Kingdom in a time when the Indies had not filled it with Gold and Silver. The tyranny was so intolerable, that the whole Nation protested against it in their Letter to the Council of (y) Lyons, Anno 1245. wherein among other things they declare that the *Italians* received hence yearly above sixty thousand Marks, besides all other payments to the See of Rome, and carried out of the Kingdom a greater revenue than the King had, who was Tutor to the Charob and was to support the charge of the State. Which complaint yet had no other answer than delays; and

y Tom. conct.
28. p. 460.

The Established Religion

a severe example to terrifie them, immediately made upon the Emperour *Frederick the Second*, against whom his Holiness *Innocent the Fourth* then Pope, to use the words of the Acts of the Council, (*z*) *Pronounced and thundered out the Sentence of Excommunication, not without the horror and amazement of all bearers and by-standers.* Only the Annats or First Fruits of Bishopricks as they were computed in *Parliament, Anno 1532. in a few years came to an hundred sixty thousand pound sterling; it would be endless to audit the whole Account. As England was by the Popes stiled an †inexhaustible pit, so was there no bounds set to the industry of them who attempted to drain it. After a sad complaint of the Rapine, Avarice, and tyranny of the Pope and his Officers among us, (*a*) *Matthew Paris* breaks out into these words, *We might there see heart-breaking grief, the cheeks of pious persons drown'd in tears, the doleful moan that they made, and the sighs which they multiplied, saying with bleeding groans, It were better for us to die, then behold the calamity of our Country and pious People of it. Woe to England, who heretofore was Princess of Provinces, and Ruler of Nations, the mirrour of Excellence, and pattern of Piety, is now become Tributary, vile persons have trampled upon her, and she is a prey to the ignoble: But our manifold sins have procured these judgments from God, who in his anger for the iniquity of his People has made a Hypocrite and Tyrant to rule over them. If Almighty God should for the like Provocations put us again under the same Egyptian Task-masters,*

z Pag. 462.

* *Herb. Hist.*
King Hen. 8.
p. 330.

† *Mat. Paris*
Anno 1246.

a Anno 1237.

masters, we need not doubt of the self-same usage. But now, for all this expence, 'tis pleasant to examine what is to come back to us in exchange; even Parchments full of Benedictions and Indulgences, store of leaden Seals, Beads, and Tickets; Medals, *Agnus Dei's*; Rosaries, hallowed Grains, and Wax-candles, such Traffic that an Indian would scarce barter for; such pitiful Gauds, that would hardly bribe a child of a year old; and yet this is the goodly price they offer for all the wealth of a whole Nation.

X. After this Tyranny over our Estates in the particulars rehearsed, there is a very remarkable one behind which will well deserve to be considered: It is (*b*) *Auricular Confession*, where not to mention its ill aspect upon Government, as being made an Engine of State, and Pick-lock of the Cabinets of Princes, sealing up all things from the notice of the Magistrate; but making liberal discoveries against him, hereby not only the Estate, but Soul and Conscience of every private man are subjected to the Avarice and Rapine, and withal the Humour and Caprice, the Insolence and Pride, nay, Lust and Villany of a debauched Confessor; Every mortal sin upon pain of Damnation must be confessed, and when the Penitent after great anxieties has freed himself from this disquiet, he must submit to the Penance, however rigorous, or chargeable, or foolish, which the Priest enjoyns; he and his Family are entirely in the

*b Concil Trid.
Sess. 14.*

The Established Religion

the power of this Master of their secrets.

And if this Awe and Empire, however grievous, were the whole Inconvenience, 'twere something tolerable, it being to be hoped, that so severe a Remedy would affright from Guilt; but the very contrary happens: the Priest takes often benefit of the Sin which he absolves from, and having the advantage of these two Points, that the person whose Confession he has taken has lost Modesty, and that he can absolve from the crime, it will be easie to persuade the repetition of that Sin, which his breath can easily blow away and render none. I shall not here mention on the other part the persunctory Penances, which seem only imposed to invite to sin again, and those authorized by a most authentic pattern, that of the Popes themselves, for what Markets may we not expect from a poor Priest, when his Holiness in his (*c Tax of the Apostolick Chancery*) has valued the most horrid crimes at so easie rates as a few grosses, or a *Julio*, and eighteen pence or half a crown compounds for the foulest most abominable guilt. Nay, when a visit to a priviledg'd Shrine or Altar, and the bare recital of a short prayer purchases pardon for 100, 500, 546, 6646 days: Nay, for 7500, 10000, 1000000 years according to the grants of several Popes, to be seen for our great comfort and edification in the (*d Hora B. Virginis*). So that the story of that plump Confessor, who for six Acts of Adultery is said to have enjoyn'd the repetition of six Penitential Psalms, and when 'twas told him that there were seven of them, advised

c Taxa carcel. Apost.

d Hora B Vir.
p. 73, 84, 76:
40, 73, 79, 72.
56, 80, &c.

advised the Votary to commit Adultery once more, and repeat the whole number, may seem a very severe act of Discipline, and besides a full attonement for past sins supererogation for future ones.

So that Vice being brought to this easie rate, besides all other misadventures, unless we will stand for the honour of being Cuckolds, and have our posterity share the Title which is proverbial in Popish Countries, to be *fils de Prestre*; it will concern us to look about us, while 'tis time; and prevent these vile dishonours which are preparing for us. If it shall be said, that 'tis not imaginable men should pervert so sacred an action, as the receiving of Confessions to those purposes of villany that are suggested. I answer first, That we may without breach of charity suppose that thing possibly to be done, which is notoriously known to have been done: as also, that the horror of the crime is competently allayed by their Doctrine, who think only marriage, and not (e) fornication inconsistent with the dignity of a Clergy-man. And therefore the Nephews of great Clergy-men and Popes have in all Ages been owned and preferred, and moreover (f) fornication has been allowed to Priests and Friars in compensation for their restraint from marriage, three or four Whores as part of their spiritual preferment. I say, all this being put together, there will be little hopes to preserve honour in Families, where

e *Steid comm.*

l. 1.

f *Cornel. Agrip.*

6. *le lenocin.*

civil

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704
31
The Established Religion

so many circumstances concur together to betray it.

XI. After all this there still remains a farther reason why we should resist the growth of Popery, even the most pressing that can be urged, *Self-preservation*, to avoid Imprisonment and Inquisition; Fire and Fagot, Massacres, Racks and Gibbets, the known Methods by which the Romanists support their Cause, and propagate their Faith. Should that Sect prevail; the Nonconformist shall no longer complain of a *Bartholomew day*, the *Parisian Vespers*, which bore that date, will be resumed again, and silence all complaints of them or us: and as His Holiness thought fit to celebrate that barbarous villany, calling together, as (g) *Thuanus* tells us, his Cardinals solemnly to give thanks to Almighty God for so great a blessing conferred upon the Roman See, and the Christian world; nay, a *Fabrike* was to be proclaimed through the Christian World, whereof the cause was expressed to give thanks to God for destroying in France the enemies of the Truth and of the Church; There may be found on this side the Sea men who will imitate the Princes of the holy League, who upon such encouragements from the See of Rome, and for the greater glory of God, will be ready to consecrate their hands in a Massacre here with us. It is vulgarly known what was done to the poor *Albigenses* and *Waldenses*: How many hundred thousand of
lives.

g. Thuan. h. 93.
l. 53.

lives the planting of the Roman Gospel in the Indies cost : What cruelties were practised in the Low-Countries by the Duke d'Alva, what blood in this Island in the days of Queen Mary, what designed to be shed in the Powder Treason, and that by the privity and direction of the Pope himself as (h) *Delrio* informs us in spite of all the palliations that are now suggested : who withal adds, that his Holiness *Clement* the VIII by his Bull a little before that time gave order that *no Priest should discover any thing that came to his knowledge in confession to the benefit of the Secular Government* : It seeming safer to these good men to break all the Obligations of Duty and Allegiance, though bound by Oaths, than violate the Seal of Confession, or put a stop to that meritorious work at one moment to destroy their Sovereign with all his Royal Family, his whole Nobility and Senate, and subvert the Government of their Native Country. But we need not seek for instances without our own memories, the carriage of the (i) *Irish Rebellion*, where the Papists in a few moneths cut the throats of about two hundred thousand innocent Protestants of all Sexes and Ages, cannot be yet forgotten. Which Act was so meritorious as to deserve from his Holiness a most plenary Indulgence for all that were concerned in it, (k) even absolution from Excommunication, Suspension, and all other Ecclesiastical Sentences and Censures by whomsoever, or for what cause soever pronounced or inflicted upon them, as also from all sins, trespasses, transgressions,

^h *Disq. magic.*
l. 2. c. 1. Sect. 1.

ⁱ *Lord Orrery,*
p. 29.

^k *Pag. 513.*

The Established Religion

fiend, crimes and delinquencies, how hainous and atrocious soever they be, &c.

Nor let any man be so fond to hope for better terms, or Liberty of Conscience, if Popery should now prevail. Let us look into the world, and we shall see on all hands, that nothing is any where suffered to grow either under or near that Sect. Where Protestantism has been so strongly fix'd as not to be batter'd down at once, it has by degrees been perpetually undermin'd: witness the Proceedings against them in *Poland* and *Hungary*, and several parts of *Germany*, the late Persecutions in the Vallies of *Piedmont*, and the methods used in *France* to demolish their Temples, and disable them for their Employments, and almost exclude them from common Trades. I need not enquire what is now done in *Utrecht* and other acquisitions of the *French* upon the *Hollander*; this we are sure of; Whatever Articles are, or can be made of favour and compliance, 'tis somewhat more than a probable (1) Doctrine, that Faith is not to be kept with Heretics. The Jesuited Romanist is at large by Equivocations to say any things, and by directing of Intention to do any thing; they can with a very good conscience dissemble their own, and pretend to the Protestant Profession, come to the devotions of Heathen Idolaters, and that from express Licence from his Holiness Pope *Clement* the Eighth upon account of which *we* may, says (2) *Tho. a Jesu*,

Concil. Corsh.
West. Jesuitism

m. De convers.
infil p. 854.

in opposition to Popery.

35 (204)

Jesu, be present without any scruple at the Rites and divine Offices of Infidels, Heretics and Schismatics. Nay Peter (n) Masseius makes it his boast, that Ignatius Loyola imitated the Devil in all his tricks, cheats and cunning, to convert souls: and how his followers have transcrib'd that Pattern the world does know.

n In vit. Ignat. Loyol.

Yet farther they, some of them at least, can set up a new Gospel, where there is not one word of the Cross of Christ; can worship Heathen Idols with that pitiful reserve of having in their Sleeve a Crucifix, to which they privately direct their Adoration: All which as they are notorious for, being complained of to the (o) Pope, so are they uncontroul'd for ought appears and permitted by him. Indeed what conversation can there be with these men who are under no obligations of Society, no Character of notice or Distinction; who at the same time are Priests and Hectors, Casuists and Artificers, Presbyterians Anabaptists, Quakers, Theists, Atheists, and amidst all this very good Catholics. Let any honest sober man judge what kind of Religion this is, in it self, and how fit to be encourag'd and submitted to.

o Palafox Bp. of Angelopolis in his Letter to Pope Innoc. X.

XII. To close up all that has been said; from uncontroulable Testimonies and Proofs, we have seen the influence which Popery has either heretofore or may hereafter have amongst us in all the great concerns of our Religion,

The Established Religion, &c.

Religion, our Prince, our Laws, our Property, our Countrey, our Families and Lives, and found it evidently destructive unto all: the inference from whence can be no other, but that if we have any love of our Religion, any abhorrence of the grossest Superstition, Error or Idolatry, any regard for the safety of His Majesty, any care of our Laws or our Estates, any concernment for the Strength, the Wealth or Numbers of our Nation; any desire to hold the Freedom of our Conscience, the Virtue and the Honour of our Families; and lastly, any care of Self-Preservation, to escape Massacres, and the utmost rage of Persecution; it will behooove us to beware of the prevailing of that Sect, in whose Successes we have reason to expect to forfeit all these Interests, perish our selves, and bequeath Idolatry and Beggery and Servitude to our Posterity.

F I N I S.

(409)